

August 11, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nominations for Universal Service Administrative Company
Board of Directors | CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:


The WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband (“WTA”) unanimously supports the nomination of Mr. Geoffrey A. Feiss, General Manager of the Montana Telecommunications Association, to serve an additional term as the Representative for incumbent local exchange carriers (“ILECs”) (non-Bell Operating Companies) with less than \$40 million in annual revenues, on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”).

Mr. Feiss has over 25 years of experience in the telecommunications industry and has served on a variety of boards throughout his career. In his current position, Mr. Feiss has been an effective advocate on behalf of his members companies, and the rural ILEC industry, before state and federal officials supporting affordable advanced communications in rural America. As required by Public Notice DA 15-824, I have attached Mr. Feiss’ detailed curriculum vitae.

Mr. Feiss has demonstrated throughout his career that he is committed and capable of fulfilling the responsibilities necessary to serve on the USAC Board. WTA encourages a speedy reappointment of Mr. Feiss to serve another term on the USAC Board. His experience, knowledge of the industry and performance to date on the USAC Board make him the perfect candidate.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at 406.443.6377.

Sincerely,



Kelly Worthington
Executive Vice President

cc: Charles Tyler
TAPD, Wireline Competition Bureau

Geoffrey A. Feiss

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Helena, Montana 59601
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Curriculum Vitae

Over 25 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, with 14 years as General Manager (CEO) of the Montana Telecommunications Association, which represents commercial and cooperative telecommunications providers offering advanced communications services throughout Montana.

Experience

1998 – Present. General Manager. Montana Telecommunications Association.

Responsible for managing all facets of a full-service telecommunications industry association, including strategic leadership, public policy advocacy, communications & PR, financial administration, marketing programs, human resources, consulting, customer service, education programs, event planning and innovative member services.

1994 – 1998. Director, Congressional Relations. USTelecom.

Directed national legislative advocacy initiatives and grassroots operations.

1988 – 1993. Director, External Affairs. Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

Counseled senior management team on federal policy strategies. Devised and executed corporate advocacy efforts.

1987 – 1988. Director, Community Development. Michigan Bell.

Operated statewide media relations, community and economic development program.

1984 – 1987. Manager, Legislative Affairs. American Electronics Association.

Managed federal legislative activities, specializing in armed services, small business, taxation and government operations policy.

1979 – 1984. Legislative Assistant. Honorable Bob Davis (R-MI).

Advised Congressman on small business, tax, and government operations issues.

1977 – 1978. Legislative Assistant. Honorable Charles Whalen (R-OH).

Advised Congressman on House Floor activity; managed District communications; analyzed House International Relations Committee proceedings.

1977 Congressional Intern. Honorable Charles Whalen (R-OH).

Boards, Appointments, Committees

- Director, Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"). Appointed by FCC Chairman. 2008 – present.
- Chairman, National Council of State Telecommunications Executives. 2010.

- President, The Montana Club. 2010 – present.
- Director/Treasurer, Helena Civic TV/TV Montana. 2006 – present.
- Director, Montana Cooperative Development Center. 2004 – present.
- Director, Montana Society of Association Executives. 2010 – present.
- Radio Commentator. Montana Public Radio. 2004 – present.
- Trustee, Helena School Board. Elected 2000 – 2003.
- NTCA Government Affairs Committee. 2007 – present.
- Legislative/Executive School Funding Task Force. Governor Appt: 2001 – 2002.
- E-911 Executive Council. Governor Appointment: 1998 – 2004.
- Statewide Interoperability Executive Council. Governor Appointment: 1998 – 2004.

Education

- University of Maine. Orono, Maine. International Relations. 1977.
- Certified Association Executive. 2003-2009.
- University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. Executive Finance. 1986.